

Serial No. 10/667,553
Amendment Dated February 22, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 31, 2005

REMARKS

Claim 22 has been finally rejected as both indefinite and unpatentable over Counter (U.S. Patent No. 5,813,051). Reconsideration of this final rejection is respectfully requested. In the examiner's action mailed October 1, 2004, the Examiner did not mention Counter at all in the entire action, not even of interest. However, the Examiner was aware of Counter since it was cited by Applicant in its Information Disclosure Statement. Counter is not pertinent to the claims since the panel 12 (Fig. 4) is not a flat planar panel solely secured to the back of the garment by the releasable securing means. It is secured by a pair of straps 48, 50 (Fig. 1) that are attached to panel 12 and require mating connectors 60, 62 on the front of the garment (Fig. 2). This renders the garment unsightly, expensive to manufacture, and does not present a clean image. Applicant contemplates the quick and easy stacking of panels, then removably securing them quickly and easily to the back of a garment without need for connecting buckles.

Claim 22, as proposed to be amended, clearly recites that Applicant's billboard panel is a flat planar element encompassed solely by four interconnected borders. There are no straps. The flat panel is secured to the garment solely by the releasable means on the flaps and along the edges of the panel. No unsightly straps are present.

This amendment was not presented earlier since the Counter patent was never cited or applied prior to the final rejection. If the Examiner remains unconvinced of the patentability of claim 22, it is respectfully requested that the amended claim be entered for purposes of appeal since it reduces the issues relating to the 35 USC 112 rejection.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

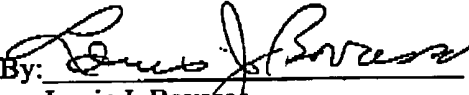
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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, now or in the future, or credit any overpayment to Account No. 50-2638.

Respectfully submitted,

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